

Pewabic Pottery

10125 E. Jefferson Avenue

Local	✓	12/11/70
State		
State Marker		
National	✓	12/4/91
National Landmark	✓	12/4/91



Pewabic Pottery Studio

Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

Historic Overview:

The Pewabic Pottery Studio was designed and built for the famous ceramic and glaze artist Mary Chase Perry Stratton in 1907 by her husband William B. Stratton and his partner Frank D. Baldwin. Stratton and Baldwin were two of the most influential architects in Detroit in the first part of the century, their firm was the first in Michigan to be headed solely by architects trained in American schools.

Perry, an artist of the arts and crafts movement, believed that “simple shapes endure through the ages” and thus created pieces that had clean lines and spectacular glazes. Pewabic’s iridescent glazes are legendary, and the scale of their architectural installations unmatched. Pewabic Pottery’s architectural tiles are used throughout the country in murals, mosaics, private homes, and schools. Some well-known buildings that exhibit Perry’s excellent tiles include the Detroit Institute of Art, Cranbrook Academy of Art, the Ford Factory in Oklahoma, and the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Washington D.C. Perry’s pottery is the only American work displayed in the Freer Gallery of Art in the Smithsonian Institution.

“Pewabic” is a Chippewa Indian term meaning “clay with a copper color” and was chosen by Perry as a tribute to her first home in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula Copper Country. Mary Chase Perry Stratton died in 1961, but left a ceramics legacy. The building on Jefferson Avenue continues to provide artists with a space for creating Pewabic’s wares.